

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 07337 140411Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 NSC-05 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01
USIE-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
SSO-00 /047 W

-----140423Z 123729 /23

O 140318Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9720

UNCLAS MANILA 7337

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: HERRERA CASE: PRESS PLAY

REF: (A) MANILA 7325; (B) STATE 109337

1. MAY 14 MANILA DAILIES FRONTPAGED HERRERA RELEASE. IT WAS LEAD STORY IN BULLETIN TODAY UNDER HEADLINE "DETAINEE SET FREE; OFFICER TO FACE TRIAL." SHORT STORY REPORTS SUBSTANCE OF MARCOS RELEASE ORDER AND STATES HERRERA ARRESTED FOR VIOLATION OF GENERAL ORDER PROHIBITING RALLIES, DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER FORMS OF GROUP ACTION.

2. DAILY EXPRESS CARRIED STORY UNDER HEADLINE "WOMAN DETAINEE FREED; HER TORMENTORS RAPPED." EXPRESS, IN REPORTING COURT MARTIAL OF LT. MANTILLANO, NOTES THAT IN 1976 LIEUTENANT AND TWO NCOS RECEIVED DISHONORABLE DISCHARGES AFTER COURT MARTIAL FOUND THEM GUILTY OF TORTURE AT CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA. TIMES JOURNAL RAN ITS STORY UNDER HEADLINE "METROCOM MEN FACE TORTURE RAP."

3. HERRERA RELEASE WAS LEAD ITEM ON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION RADIO NEWS THIS MORNING WITH COMMENTATOR SUGGESTING PRESIDENT'S ACTION "WOULD SETTLE ONCE AND FOR ALL" FACT THAT TORTURE NOT COUNTENANCED BY GOP.

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PAGE 02 MANILA 07337 140411Z

4. AP STORY BY WILLIAM MANN FILED LAST NIGHT (MAY 13) LEADS WITH SENTENCE "FACED WITH THE INTERCESSION OF THE USG, PRESIDENT FERDINAND E. MARCOS ON FRIDAY ORDERED THE RELEASE OF A MARTIAL LAW PRISONER WHO CLAIMED SHE HAD BEEN TORTURED." MANN REPORTS BICUTAN AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO LET HIM SEE MRS. HERRERA WHO WAS BEING TRANSFERRED TO

CAMP CRAME FOR RELEASE ACCOMPANIED BY LAWYER RODRIGO, SINCE SHE FEARED ACCOMPANY MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM HER DETENTION AREA WITHOUT ESCORT. MANN CLAIMS HERRERA CASE "APPARENTLY MARKED THE FIRST TIME THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD TAKEN ITS PUBLIC CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE EXTENT OF SENDING REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT A POLITICAL PRISONER OF ANOTHER COUNTRY IN THAT COUNTRY'S JAIL." MANN ALSO REPORTS EMBASSY SPOKESMAN REFUSED COMMENT ON CASE, EXCEPT TO SAY USG "CONCERNED ABOUT ALL CASES OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS." HE QUOTES EMBASSY SOURCE, HOWEVER, AS SUGGESTING US INTERCESSION RESULT OF EXTENSIVE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN CASE, AS WELL AS "HIGH LEVEL INTEREST IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT."

5. SO FAR THERE NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON CASE IN LOCAL PRESS. MAY 13 NOON BRIEFING (REFTEL B) TOO LATE FOR REPORTS TO APPEAR IN TODAY'S PRESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 14-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: SHUM, PINS, RP, (HERRERA, TRINIDAD)
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